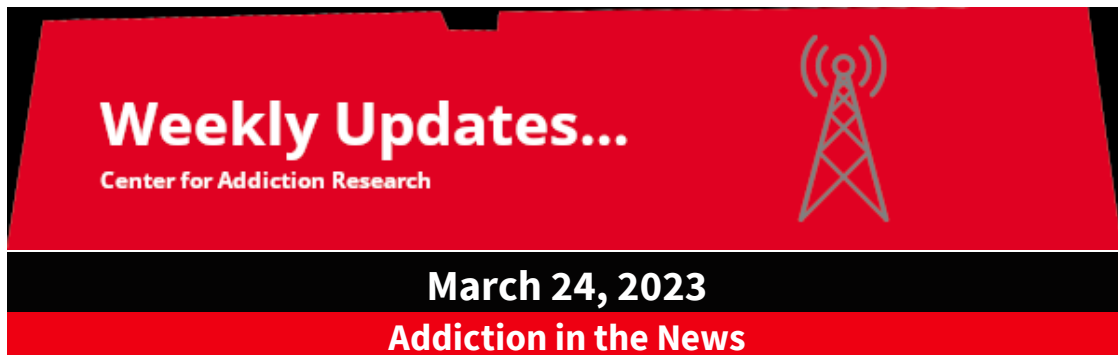


Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) to change your communication preferences. Thank you.

Thank you for your interest in the Center for Addiction Research - our mission is to accelerate scientific progress in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and their consequences by fostering research collaborations across: 1) UC departments, colleges, and centers including Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; 2) Local, regional, and state community and governmental partners; and 3) Other academic institutions and industry."



UC/ Regional News

DeWine announces \$2.3 Million RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Grant opportunity

COLUMBUS – Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced today that the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is now accepting applications for \$2.3 million in funding to be awarded as part of the RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund. “I’m proud of the ongoing efforts of Ohio’s drug task forces to stop illegal drug activity in our state,” said DeWine. “This necessary funding will help cover expenses that these organizations incur while they keep our communities safe and help reduce and prevent drug use in Ohio.” Grant funding will be used to support the mission of DeWine’s RecoveryOhio initiative which aims to increase mental health and substance use awareness, implement...

Lima Municipal Treatment Court is helping people who struggle with drug and alcohol addiction

LIMA, OH (WLIO) - The Lima Municipal Treatment Court is helping those addicted to drugs or alcohol get the second chance they need. There are two programs in at the Lima municipal court, the first one was started in 2015 and since then 168 people have gone through the program with 66 of them graduating. At any time, they have between 15-20 participants. The recidivism rate after one year is 12% and 15% after two. The goal for participants is to create a life-long pattern of controlling their drug and alcohol addiction. “It gets them set up that they have a good situation with their families, their children and also get them set up that they are able to be employed,” says Judge David...

Documentary on criminal justice reform and addiction gets people discussing local help

At a community discussion this weekend on addiction and criminal justice reform, officials say the fight against addiction locally begins with recognizing mental health issues and spending more money on care. As IPR's Sawyer Osmun reports, they also want to start with the area's youngest citizens. "We're not doing a good job of letting the public know, especially our youth through social media, not just in the paper, or Facebook or Instagram, about the new drugs. I mean if we know there's something new on the market, it should be plastered everywhere." That's Muncie city councilwoman Ro Selvey. She says the city's recently announced Crisis Center is a good start, funded by \$2 million in federal funds.

National News

New Study Reveals How Heavy Alcohol Consumption Increases Brain Inflammation

People with alcohol use disorder (AUD) experience a never-ending vicious cycle of changes in the brain and behavior. AUD can disrupt communication pathways in the brain, leading to an escalation of drinking behavior and further exacerbating the condition. Scientists at Scripps Research have uncovered new insights into the role of the immune system in the cycle of alcohol use disorder (AUD). In a study published in *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*, they found that the levels of the immune signaling molecule interleukin 1 β (IL-1 β) are elevated in the brains of mice with alcohol dependence. Furthermore...

Study suggests interprofessional team training could prove effective in alcohol use disorder prevention and treatment

An LSU Health New Orleans study demonstrated the effectiveness of single, focused Interprofessional Education (IPE)-based exercises in preparing young health professions learners to limit or prevent alcohol use disorder (AUD). Students learned together as a foreshadowing of future interprofessional practice. This intervention produced significant decreases in the stigma associated with alcohol use, which is highly relevant for potential AUD patients. Results are published in *BMC Medical Education*. "These results may translate into more effective and collaborative AUD treatment in..."

Alcohol abuse and anxiety sensitivity are linked in different but mutually reinforcing ways, finds study

Anxiety sensitivity—the fear of anxiety-related sensations—has a long and not very healthy relationship with alcohol use and abuse. People who display high levels of AS are more likely to drink heavily and use alcohol as a coping method or to reduce tensions. For young adults, who drink the most, high AS can put them at risk for drinking to cope, which poses risks for long-term consequences on their personal and professional lives, including underemployment and addiction. A new study

published in the journal *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*, led by Ph.D. candidate Charlotte...

People exposed to alcohol prenatally experience significant challenges, which differ by sex

In a recent analysis, researchers found sex differences in the health and neurodevelopmental outcomes of people exposed to alcohol before birth. Male participants in the study, published in *Alcohol: Clinical and Experimental Research*, experienced greater neurodevelopmental impairment, while female participants had higher rates of endocrine problems. The types of environmental adversity they experienced also differed by sex—female participants had higher rates of trauma and victimization, while male participants had higher rates of problems with school and the criminal justice system. The...

Poll Finds Many Parents Unaware of Kids' Exposure to Vaping

MONDAY, March 20, 2023 (HealthDay News) -- Four out of five U.S. parents questioned in a large poll believe their preteen and teenage kids are clear on the risks that electronic cigarettes pose, and only a few think their child actually vapes. Still, if their child did vape, would parents know? Nearly half of more than 1,300 parents polled said they would. The findings, experts say, point to a potential disconnect between what parents think is going on and the real deal when it comes to vaping among American youth. "These findings point to a few ways parents might be off," said poll co-director...

FDA Denies Marketing of Two Vuse Solo Menthol E-Cigarette Products

SILVER SPRING, Md., March 17, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued marketing denial orders (MDOs) for two menthol e-cigarette products currently marketed by R.J. Reynolds Vapor Company under the Vuse Solo brand. The currently marketed products include the Vuse Replacement Cartridge Menthol 4.8% G1 and the Vuse Replacement Cartridge Menthol 4.8% G2. The company must not market or distribute these products in the U.S. or they risk FDA enforcement action. The company may resubmit applications or submit new applications to...

How bad is vaping and should it be banned?

Vaping regularly makes headlines, with some campaigning to make e-cigarettes more available to help smokers quit, while others are keen to see vaping products banned, citing dangers, especially for teens. So just how dangerous is it? We have undertaken an evidence check of vaping research. This included more than 100 sources on tobacco harm reduction, vaping prevalence and health effects, and what other countries are doing in response. Here's what we found. How does vaping compare to smoking? Smoking is harmful. It's the leading preventable cause of death in Australia. It causes 13%...

FDA Allows Lower Risk Designation for Snuff Product

The FDA authorized the U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company, a subsidiary of tobacco giant Altria, to market Copenhagen Classic Snuff as less likely to cause lung cancer than cigarettes. The loose moist snuff smokeless tobacco product had already been on the market with standard tobacco warning labels; now it can carry this claim: "IF YOU SMOKE, CONSIDER THIS: Switching completely to this product from cigarettes reduces risk of lung cancer."

FDA cautioned in its announcement that the authorization is only good for 5 years and requires postmarketing studies to monitor consumer...

Smoking independently tied to higher risk for psoriasis

Smoking is tied to an increased risk for psoriasis, but may not be a cause of psoriasis, according to a study published online Feb. 22 in *Frontiers in Immunology*. Charlotte Näslund-Koch, from Copenhagen University Hospital-Herlev and Gentofte in Denmark, and colleagues used data from 105,912 individuals participating in the Copenhagen General Population Study to assess whether smoking (measured both observationally and by the presence of the genetic variant CHRNA3 rs1051730, which is strongly associated with high lifelong cumulative smoking) is independently associated with psoriasis. The...

DEA Reports Widespread Threat of Fentanyl Mixed with Xylazine

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is warning the American public of a sharp increase in the trafficking of fentanyl mixed with xylazine. Xylazine, also known as "Tranq," is a powerful sedative that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved for veterinary use. "Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, fentanyl, even deadlier," said Administrator Milgram. "DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States. The DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl..."

Methadone doses haven't kept up in the age of fentanyl. A new rule aims to help

Patients beginning treatment for opioid addiction often face excruciating withdrawal symptoms. But for people struggling to transition from ultra-potent illicit fentanyl to comparatively weaker addiction medications, help may be on the way. A new federal regulation would make it easier for some patients to begin treatment on significantly higher doses of methadone, a key medicine used to treat opioid use disorder. Current regulations recommend that clinicians start patients on just 30 milligrams of methadone, a dose that experts say would almost universally leave people who...

Some Roadblocks to Lifesaving Addiction Treatment Are Gone. Now What?

For two decades — as opioid overdose deaths rose steadily — the federal government limited access to buprenorphine, a medication that addiction experts

consider the gold standard for treating patients with opioid use disorder. Study after study shows it helps people continue addiction treatment while reducing the risk of overdose and death. Clinicians who wanted to prescribe the medicine had to complete an eight-hour training. They could treat only a limited number of patients and had to keep special records. They were given a Drug Enforcement Administration registration number starting...

Opioid research: How scientists are using peptides to try to build a safer drug

Opioids alleviate pain by imitating a natural pain-relief process in our nervous system. They are the most effective and powerful painkillers available. However, they also have side effects, some of which can be severe. These include numbness, addiction, and breathing problems, which can result in fatal overdoses. For many years, researchers have been attempting to address the issue of side effects in different ways, all of which involve one or more of the four opioid receptor subtypes. So far, those efforts have not been successful. One ongoing approach is the development of peptide-based...

New AI model using social media posts may help predict community deaths from opioid use

Clinicians and other professionals trying to stop the opioid crisis in the United States need all the tools they can to accurately identify communities at risk of large increases in deaths from opioid use and prevent deaths. A study led by a team of computer scientists at Stony Brook University and published in *npj Digital Medicine* presents a unique approach using artificial intelligence (AI) and social media posts to predict opioid mortality rates. The findings revealed that a sophisticated AI algorithm was able to predict opioid death rates—going back from previous years 2011 to 2107—much more accurately...

Doctors may miss how addiction patients cheat drug tests

Doctors often use urine tests to make sure patients taking medication for opioid addiction are sticking with treatment. A new study suggests they may be missing some cheaters. Nearly 8% of these patients sometimes spike their urine by adding their treatment medicine, buprenorphine, to the samples. Such spiking may go unnoticed by doctors who use rapid tests instead of more sophisticated lab tests that can reveal who's cheating. "These patients are at particularly high risk for opioid overdose, as they are not receiving the protective effects of buprenorphine," said Dr. Jarratt Pytell of...

As opioids overdose deaths keep rising, report urges lawmakers to develop new approaches

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers should view America's staggering opioid crisis, including the rise of illicit fentanyl, through an "ecosystems" approach, argues a massive RAND Corporation report published Thursday. That means they should examine the gaps and interconnections among emergency response, data

collection, education, treatment, housing and law enforcement, the report advises. The 600-page volume — which the authors describe as “arguably the most comprehensive analysis of opioids in 21st century America” — encourages federal, state and local lawmakers to think “beyond...

Opioids are devastating Cherokee families. The tribe has a \$100 million plan to heal

Late one afternoon, Mazzy Walker gives a tour of her family's farm near Tahlequah, Okla., capital of the Cherokee Nation. "Cows are walking, turkeys, a dog," she said, giggling at her role as tour-guide. "I don't know what!" Mazzy is 9 years old. Walking through the grass, she wears a flowing red dress, huge eyeglasses and big boots. She's curious about everything. "So I heard you live in New York?" she said to a reporter who had come to visit. "Tell him why you want to go there, Mazzy," said Gary Walker, her dad. She grins and answers, "Because there's an American Girl doll store." Turns out Mazzy loves American...

Why is there a cocaine boom?

In the 1990s, the drug war ranged from the jungles of Colombia to the streets of American cities. "Despite our best efforts, illegal cocaine is coming into our country at alarming levels, and four to five million people regularly use it," said former President Ronald Reagan. Today there's a new epidemic: smokable cocaine, otherwise known as crack. It is an explosively destructive and often lethal substance which is crushing its users. "We can defeat this enemy. But we still have much to do," Reagan said. The fight against cocaine intensified between 2000 and 2015 with "Plan Colombia", a billion dollar...

New NIH study reveals shared genetic markers underlying substance use disorders

Published today in Nature Mental Health, the study was led by researchers at the Washington University in St. Louis, along with more than 150 coauthors from around the world. It was supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the National Institute on Aging. There has been limited knowledge of the molecular genetic underpinnings of addiction until now. Further, most clinical...

Immune signals that contribute to addiction vulnerability identified in the brain

For individuals suffering from drug addiction, certain cues—whether it's specific people, places or things—can trigger powerful cravings for repeated use. A new University of Michigan study has identified brain signals, traditionally associated with inflammation, contributing to people's vulnerability to addiction. With repeated drug use with the same exposure to cues, some individuals develop an

inability to control their drug use, even in the face of negative consequences. The study is published in the journal *eNeuro*. In rats, researchers have demonstrated that animals with poor attentional control—choosing what is given attention to and what is ignored—develop strong cue-induced cravings. They are called sign trackers. Animals with good attentional control are considered goal tracker

Racial disparities in US drug overdose fatalities significantly higher in 2020, shows study

The first year of the COVID pandemic saw significant increases in drug overdose deaths across the U.S., with rates higher than recent trends could have predicted. Research published in *PLOS Global Public Health* reports trends in drug overdose deaths between 2013 and 2020 across four major drug categories by gender, race and geography. It finds high levels of heterogeneity in overdose patterns across different demographic groups and that the gap in overdose fatalities between Black and white individuals continues to widen. Drug prevention and mitigation campaigns should therefore be tailored...

Stigma-coping intervention empowers people with HIV and drug use to engage in health, substance use care

Stigma negatively impacts the health of people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and those with HIV who inject drugs experience stigma on multiple levels. Stigma leads to impaired utilization and retention in addiction treatment, less access to harm reduction services and reduces HIV care success. Unfortunately, there is a lack of interventions specifically targeting stigma related to HIV and substance use among people with HIV who inject drugs. Now a new study from Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine has found that a brief stigma intervention that...

Pregnant, Black? Here's Your Drug Test

Perinatal care differs by race and ethnicity, with greater disparities in care for more stigmatizing conditions such as depression and substance use, according to a retrospective study. For example, compared with white women, Black women were less likely to receive a prenatal depression screen (OR 0.8, 95% CI 0.7-0.9) and more likely to be given a urine drug test when denying drug use (OR 1.6, 95% CI 1.3-2.0), reported Mary Byrn, PhD, RN, of Loyola University Chicago, and colleagues in *Birth: Issues in Perinatal Care*. Hispanic (OR 0.6, 95% CI 0.5-0.8) and Asian (OR 0.4, 95% CI 0.2-0.9) women were less...

Large network of clinics offering ketamine for depression shuts down

One of the largest operators of ketamine clinics in the country abruptly closed its facilities this week, leaving patients in the dark and out of treatment for depression and other chronic conditions. Ketamine Wellness Centers spanning nine states were shuttered, leaving laid-off employees and patients with more questions than answers. Interest in ketamine to treat depression and other conditions has grown in

recent years. A short-lived anesthetic turned party drug, it's now being studied for its benefits to those with psychiatric disorders that don't respond to other treatments. And there is a push by...

FTC Sues Medical Clinic and its Owner for False or Unsubstantiated Claims its Treatment Could Cure Addiction and Other Diseases

The Federal Trade Commission took action under the Opioid Addiction Recovery Fraud Prevention Act (OARFPA), suing Dr. Dalal A. Akoury and a set of companies she controls that operate as AWAREmed Health & Wellness Resource Center, a medical clinic, for making a wide range of false or unsupported claims for addiction treatment services, cancer treatment services, and the treatment of other serious conditions. The Department of Justice filed the case on the FTC's behalf. The proposed order settling the Commission's complaint bars Dr. Akoury and her AWAREmed clinic from making such...

Funding Opportunities



[PAR-23-269](#)

[NIDA Avant-Garde Program for HIV and Substance Use Disorder Research \(DP1 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PAR-23-122](#)

[Research With Activities Related to Diversity \(ReWARD\) \(R01 Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

[PAR-23-139](#)

[CCRP Initiative: NIH Countermeasures Against Chemical Threats \(CounterACT\) Translational Exploratory/Developmental Research Projects \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

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